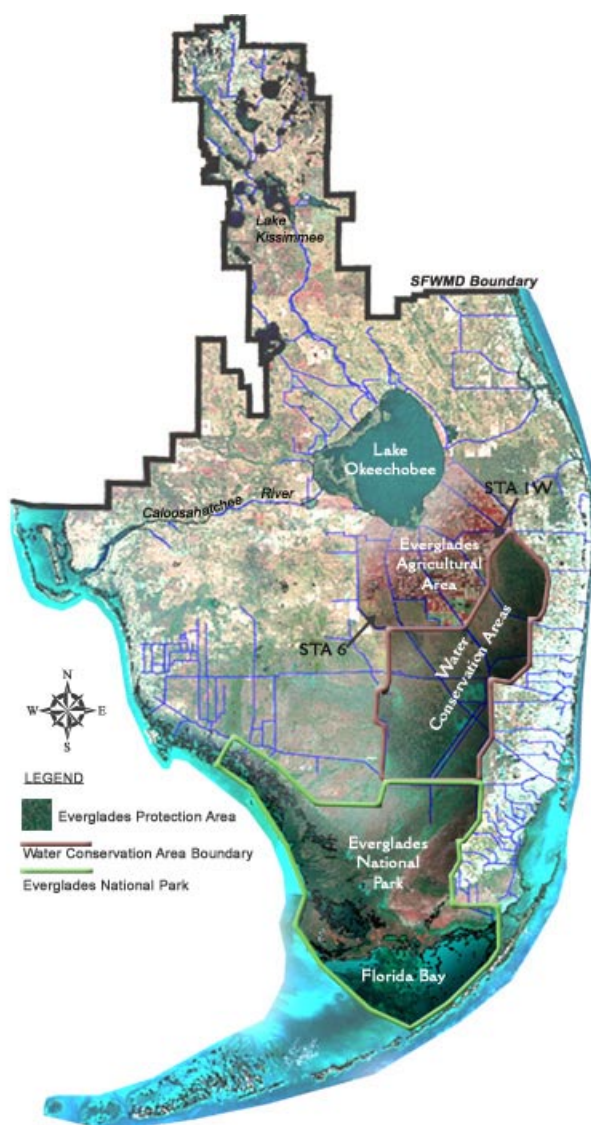




Environmental Conditions Update

APRIL 2001

Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Division South Florida Water Management District



Environmental Conditions Update April 2001 Summary

This issue of the Environmental Conditions Update analyzes data collected from **October 1 through December 31, 2000**. The major rainfall event of the quarter was from October 2 through October 4, caused by a poorly organized subtropical disturbance that caused excessive flooding in Miami-Dade County. November and December had rainfall volumes that were 19 and 51 percent, respectively, of their monthly historical averages. The total phosphorus load entering Lake Okeechobee during the fourth quarter was only 37 metric tons due to low inflows to the lake. The total phosphorus load discharged from the Everglades Agricultural Area to the conservation areas during the fourth quarter was 55.5 metric tons. Stormwater Treatment Areas had low to negligible inflows and outflows in November and December, precluding complete calculations of total phosphorus reductions and loads for the entire quarter. The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge met the calculated interim and long-term total phosphorus levels in January and February, but the Refuge was too dry in March to apply the limits. Inflows to the Everglades National Park through Shark River Slough exceeded the interim and long-term flow-weighted mean total phosphorus concentration limits, whereas inflows through Taylor Slough and the Coastal Basins met the 11 ppb long-term limit.

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